our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1995

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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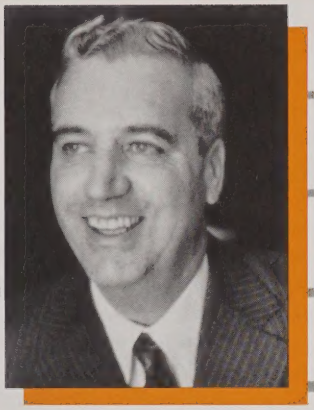
COVER:

Autumn Hues — "Safford" blends right in with the fall scenery at the League's Pine Ridge center in Dedham.
Photo by Bob Howard.

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President.....3
A Day in the Life.....4
Veterinary Update.....6
The Growing Season.....7
Pet Show '95.....10
Mr. Boggs' New Home.....12
Putting for Pets.....12
Newsfront.....14
Animal Friends.....16
Pets in the Picture.....18



Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Trapping Update

You will recall that in the summer issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends,* I recounted the incredible series of events which led to the astounding judgment by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that the so-called padded steel jaw leghold trap does not fall within the definition of a steel jaw leghold as prohibited by state law, and thus can now be used in Massachusetts as early as this fall. This is a real setback in the struggle to once and for all rid our state of the use of these dreadful devices. Clearly the difference between these two traps is a distinction without a difference, because both traps do cause "continued suffering" well within the meaning of the law.

There is abundant scientific evidence and practical field data that show that animals caught in these devices not only suffer substantial injury from the traps themselves, but also suffer great harm due to their frantic struggles to free themselves from the trap's grip. This type of injury and suffering are no less severe with a so-called padded leghold trap.

Given the Supreme Judicial Court's initial decision, it is not surprising to report that the Petition for Rehearing by the Supreme Court was promptly denied by the Court last summer.

Considering the sad state of affairs, the question is now what is the best way to combat and overcome the situation. It is our considered opinion that the best and most direct approach to resolving this problem is to pass corrective legislation as soon as possible during the present legislative session. There is presently a House bill before the Legislature which has been sent to a study committee. There is currently a strong effort under way to convince key legislators to bring this bill out of committee and mold it into a bill that will correct the defect in the law that the Supreme Court's action has created for us. This would bring about the quickest correction in the law and prevention of the impending authorized use of the padded leghold trap. This approach is our best hope, but it will have to happen promptly if it is to be effective. We and several other humane organizations favor the solution. There are several groups who have filed an Initiative Petition to place the trapping question on the ballot next year. This is a long and involved process and the people who introduced the petition have added two other issues to the petition which may complicate and confuse the trapping issue. However, it is an alternative to resolving the trapping question with the strength of public opinion. Such Petitions are not generally popular with legislators and entail a substantial amount of work, but if the direct legislative approach is not successful in the very near future, it may be the best approach.

We appreciate your continued interest and we will keep you informed on the progress of this frustrating dilemma.

A Day in the Life . . .

By Sonia DiTommaso

League ambulances make the rounds of Boston neighborhoods several days a week.

Compassion. Dedication. Diplomacy. Ingenuity. Creative Driving. Grace under pressure. As an ambulance driver at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Annie Quill personifies these qualities. Her colleagues are equally multifaceted and draw upon their knowledge and talents every time a call to aid an injured animal is answered.

Animals who are injured, abandoned, surrendered or in other stressful situations can count on Annie and company to come to their assistance in their time of need. Each day brings new challenges and unknown circumstances — sometimes the stories have happy endings, sometimes not, but our ambulance drivers are always at the ready.

A recent sweltering summer's day was spent with Annie on her Boston route. The League has nine ambulances spread out over four shelter locations and 80 cities and towns within eastern Massachusetts. Our day was extremely busy. Annie collected her list of scheduled calls from the shelter office and we began our day on the road. Scheduled calls meant we were to pick up owned animals who were being surrendered for possible adoption or, if older and ill, euthanasia.

Annie wisely warned that an emergency could come at any time and interrupt our entire schedule. This was an understatement. In between picking up a snake, an injured bird a woman rescued from her cat, two dogs and four cats, all at separate locations spread throughout Boston and surrounding communities, we were called to the aid of five injured seagulls, again each at a different site. Add to the list rescue calls for an injured gannet, a kitten trapped behind a refrigerator and a displaced nest of newly born squirrels who had been abandoned by their mother during a house renovation.

Annie professionally assessed each situation and prepared me for the potential circumstances we could face. She noted that educating the public is sometimes more of a challenge than dealing with the animals. On one of the injured seagull calls, we visited a large factory site near the shore. We were escorted to the bird and promptly asked, "You're not going to kill him, are you? We have been looking out for him for a few days and would hate to see him killed." Although a commonly asked question, Annie patiently explained that as a humane society we would do what was best for the animal. She told him that our veterinarian would evaluate the bird's condition and make the final recommendation. In the end, the seagull was euthanized as it had a broken wing and was suffering.

After each animal pick-up we immediately drove back to the shelter. Keeping an animal in the ambulance (although air-conditioned) any longer than necessary is against League policy. The animal would then be immediately evaluated in the clinic and either prepared for the adoption process, rehabilitation or humanely euthanized. Riding the ambulance meant taking part in every facet of the

Ambulance dispatcher Diane Mollaghan and driver Annie Quill transport an injured bird to a waiting ambulance.

operation, including assisting in euthanasia. Having held my own dog when the time came to say good-bye and knowing she didn't suffer because she had a peaceful, dignified exit, somewhat prepared me for the experience.

While watching and assisting Annie, I immediately gained a greater respect for my colleague and those like her who perform this sorrowful yet necessary duty on a daily basis. During her four-year tenure at the League, Annie has relieved countless animals from suffering. The care and comfort she provided to the animals in her charge during our shift came straight from the heart.

Three rescues during our travels left a deep impression and will stay with me for a long time. The first involved a call to rescue an injured seagull who was hanging from the roof of an office building. He had apparently encountered a fishing line at an earlier date and had now caught the line at the edge of the roof. He was a pitiful sight to behold. The bird must have been dangling for hours. The weather was humid and 90+ degrees. He was facing the building with part of the fishing line wrapped around his beak and tearing the sides of his mouth, while the other end of the line was firmly attached to the roof. Every few seconds he would attempt to walk up the edge of the building, but then give up and continue to hang. Two construction workers and fellow League driver Jim Pernavas assisted Annie in positioning a 40-foot ladder to reach the distressed animal.

Annie climbed the ladder, snipped the line and brought the bird to safety. He was immediately placed in a box with plenty of cold water over and around him. At the League, the gull was evaluated and then made comfortable in a holding room. We were relieved that he had survived the ordeal and looked forward to letting him rest before returning him to his home by the shore. Unfortunately the stress had been too much for him and he died the next day.

The second rescue involved a bird called a gannet. It too had become entangled in fishing line. Normally shy around humans, this bird approached a fisherman and hungrily grabbed the fish that was being used for bait. He was having a terrible time trying to swallow his recently acquired dinner. Upon closer inspection Annie located a hook imbedded in his beak. Annie opted not to remove the hook until reaching the clinic to ensure no further injury would occur. An x-ray revealed that the gannet had swallowed two additional hooks that were destroying his insides. He was humanely euthanized.

The above rescues stand out because human negligence led to the injury and destruction of the animals. Had the fishing line been properly disposed of instead of carelessly discarded, those birds would not have suffered and met an untimely end.

The third rescue had a much happier ending. A kitten, only a few weeks old, had gotten into mischief. He managed to crawl under a refrigerator and had become lodged under the appliance. We heard his cries and Annie was fearful that he would suffer severe burns if he crawled near the coils. After using a flashlight in attempts to locate our furry friend, we gently rocked the refrigerator to the center of the kitchen floor. In the corner was a frightened, dirty kitten staring up at us. He had not sustained any injuries and was given to his mother for a bath and light scolding.

On the way back to the League I asked Annie why she chose this profession. She smiled and said, "When I was younger I used to see the Animal Rescue League truck go by and I would smile, knowing they were out there doing something good. I never dreamed someday I would be the one driving that van and going to do something good somewhere for an animal. Now I can't imagine doing anything else." Annie, you may want to add "teacher" to your resume because the education you gave me in one day will indeed last a lifetime.

Upon close inspection, Annie Quill finds a fishing hook imbedded in this gannet's beak.

A Veterinary Update:

When Good Dogs Turn Bad

By Bosmat Gal, D.V.M.

Is it cause for concern when your well-behaved pet of many years suddenly begins to chew up the guest towels, or bark incessantly, whenever you leave the house? Sudden changes in personality and behavior as animals, particularly dogs, advance in years are not at all uncommon, but they may be signals of an underlying medical problem and should be called to your veterinarian's attention.

Behavior problems that only begin to show up in a dog's later years (nine or older) can usually be traced to one of four basic factors: genetic, environmental, learned or medical.

In studies of over 1,300 dogs referred to four different veterinary behavior consulting centers, Gary Landsberg, D.V.M. of the Doncaster Animal Clinic in Ontario, Canada, found that the percentage of behavior problems found in older dogs was relatively low, representing only five to six percent of the total cases.

The types of behavior problems exhibited by older animals were also quite different from the problems of the younger canine population. While aggression, housesoiling and destructiveness were the three most common reasons for referral overall, dogs over the age of nine were most likely to be referred for problems relating to separation anxiety, vocalization and phobias. Though housesoiling and destructiveness as a result of separation anxiety increased among dogs over nine, none of the older animals were unruly, or excitable, and incidents of aggression toward people were markedly lower in the senior population.

Here are the nine most common behavior problems found in the geriatric dogs included in Dr. Landsberg's studies:

1. Aggression toward people. Though lower in incidence in older dogs, dominance aggression can develop in older animals, and fear aggression can result from the introduction of a new element, such as a baby, into the household. Medical conditions which cause pain, sensory deficit, decreased activity, endocrine imbalances or central nervous system disorders are all potential underlying causes of aggression, which should first be ruled out by a veterinarian before considering behavioral training.

2. Intraspecies aggression. Hostility toward other dogs which manifests in later years can usually be traced to introduction of a new dog, changes in the household or physical changes in the older animal.

3. Housesoiling. In young animals, this is usually related to poor training, but in older dogs it is more likely to be associated with separation anxiety, or medical age-related changes that decrease bowel and bladder capacity or control. Be sure to consult your veterinarian if your older pet begins to have accidents, because there are medical treatments, including hormonal therapy, which can improve or alleviate bowel and bladder control problems.

4. Noise phobias. While fear of thunder or other loud noises usually appear at an early age, medical conditions can cause or aggravate noise phobias, especially those that increase irritability or restlessness, or impair cognitive function.

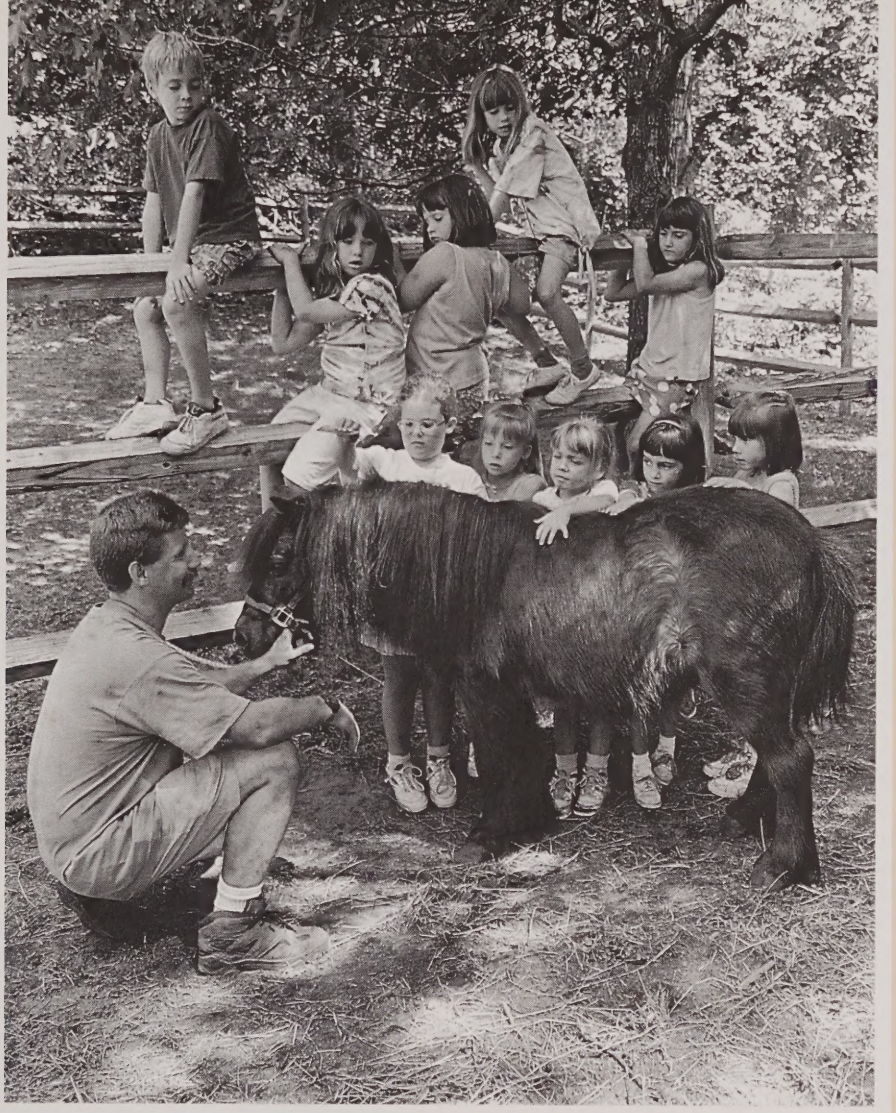
5. Separation anxiety. A major reason for behavior referrals of older dogs, separation anxiety can be a result of increased resistance to change in the household, decreased urine control or age-related cognitive disfunction.

6. and 7. Vocalization and destructiveness. In older dogs, problem barking and destructive behavior are both usually related to separation anxiety.

8. Compulsive behavior. While the incidence of compulsive, repetitious behavior is relatively low (about 5%) in older animals, it can be triggered by either environmental changes or medical problems. It is important to alert your veterinarian to any sudden onset of such behavior.

9. Restlessness and waking at night. A problem common to older people as well as older pets, sleeping difficulty may be caused by metabolic changes, or may be a sign that a medical problem is causing discomfort, or creating an increase in the frequency of urination. Dogs that suddenly become restless at night should be evaluated closely for underlying medical problems.

In general, any older pet that was previously well behaved but suddenly begins to exhibit behavioral changes, especially if there have been no changes in the environment, should be examined by your veterinarian to determine whether medical problems are at the root of the bad behavior. In addition to the standard physical examination, older pets should also receive a neurological examination and a sight and hearing evaluation.



"Pee Wee" the pony helps instructor Alan Cunningham demonstrate grooming techniques for a group of attentive campers.

The Growing Season

By Alissa Anderson

Peering out the window from the kitchen of the Animal Friends Summer Camp I can see the children circling around the flag pole to begin another eventful camp day. Each day two different campers are chosen to raise the flag and lead the others in the Pledge of Allegiance and "My Country 'Tis of Thee." After this ceremony a long line of campers enter Baxendale Hall for a rousing round of camp songs such as the "Chewing Gum Song," "Rise and Shine," or "Sixpence," which can be heard from any point at camp.

Once these Broadway singers have tired out their vocal cords we begin our activity period. Each day a different counselor organizes a game for the whole camp to play. With our large number this year we usually split in half playing games on the wiffleball field and the volleyball court. Activity period is a great way to use up some of the energy gained during songs and to learn sportsmanship and self-confidence.

Continued next page

Animal Friends Summer School

The next part of the day, which is usually the favorite for campers and counselors, is class time. This is a special part of the day because the campers have chosen what really interests them. Campers often find it difficult to choose what they want to take because of our large variety of classes — similar to when a person goes to a great restaurant and everything looks delicious. Luckily the campers can take two classes if they come for the full-day session. Our selection of classes starts with the ever-so-popular animal classes, which teach campers how to properly care for and respect many different animals, to the craft-type classes, where campers have the opportunity to make projects to bring home.

Marianne Prior teaches Farm Life. In her class they learn about and work with the chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, cow and her baby bull, Durham. Durham was born at camp on June 14, which was a real treat for everyone here to have a new baby on Ki-Wun-Ka Farm. The last day of Farm Life is the favorite day for campers because they are able to make and eat every child's favorite dairy product, ice cream.

Alan Cunningham teaches our Horse Care class which takes care of our two thoroughbred horses and our good ol' pony, Pee Wee. In this class they learn how to brush the horses and they learn about riding them, too. While grooming the horses the children also learn interesting facts about figuring out a horse's age by their teeth and how to pick out a hoof, which is a new experience for most campers.

Brothers Ethan and Mike Howard teach Ocean Ecology. In their class they take the children out on the camp boat to surrounding islands. There the children go for shore walks to examine Cape Cod marine life and collect things for their salt-water tank in their classroom.

Becky Hutchinson, the Pet Care teacher, has the campers work with rats, birds, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, fish and dogs. They learn what to feed the animals, how to clean them and how to carefully handle them. Her class also makes fish mobiles, pet rocks and dog bone magnets.

It's post time in horse care class for Sarah Albright, 9, Michelle Grasso, 10, and Stephanie Moriarty, 10.

In Beth Anderson's Nature Exploration class campers investigate the nature trails around camp looking at various wild animals, insects and trees. They are also very aware of the environment; consequently they are always cleaning up trash that is polluting our surrounding environment. This class also plays various games and creates projects which allow the children to learn while having a great time.

Paul Williams, a man of two trades, teaches Drama in the morning and Pet Therapy in the afternoon. In Drama he teaches the children many components of acting and the campers direct their own play at the end of the week. This class helps the campers develop confidence in front of a crowd and expands their imagination. In Pet Therapy, Paul brings six campers and their favorite animals from the pet care class to nursing homes around the area. This is a great chance for campers to reach out and make a positive impact on the community. These weekly visits to the nursing homes always brighten up the lives of the elderly as the residents enjoy the smiling faces of the children and the friendly animals.

Beth Khalil, who is always busy reminding the campers "over, under, through," teaches macramé. This is a terrific class for campers to make memories that they can wear such as bracelets and necklaces or butterfly magnets that they can stick on their refrigerator.

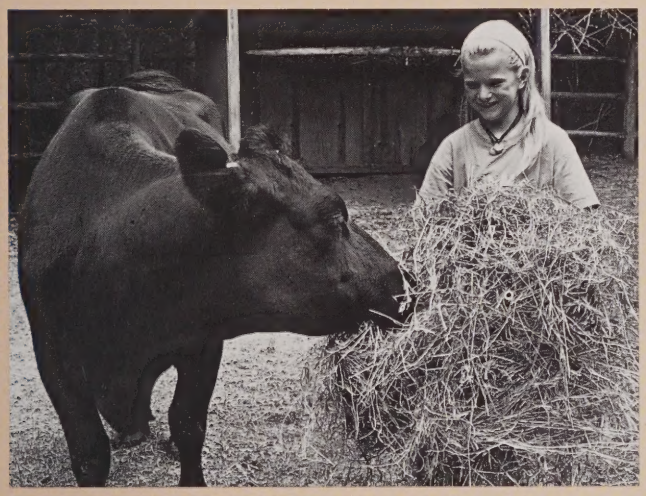
Candlemaking, taught by Rachel Purdy, is a fun class because they make an assortment of candles such as drip candles, chunk candles, ice candles and everyone's all-time favorite, sundae candles. These are great decorations that I still have from my years of being a camper.

Down in the woodshop with Kyle Maikath, campers draw out their blueprints for either a lap desk or a tray. Then they learn the proper and safe way to handle tools so they can construct a great project by the end of the week.

That's using your head! Peter Jansen, 6, delivers dinner to a group of hungry goats.

Evan Devine, 9, finds something to crow about on a trip to the hen house!

Counselor Jim Cronin gives a lift to sisters Brittany, 7, and Morgan Hiatt, 6.



Farm class is a favorite for Elizabeth Mulligan, 9, shown delivering a snack to "Sophie," the camp cow.

Deanna Dibona's Photography class is busy from the very minute they enter class. They learn the whole process of loading a camera with film to making their own negatives and developing three pictures that they took themselves over at the farm. Ansel Adams better look out for these kids after they take this class!

Elizabeth Lyons never gets a rest because she is busy protecting her campers from the "fire pit," the "enormous spider web" and "crazy aliens" in her Group Adventures class. In this class the campers learn to work together, let their imaginations run wild and really have some unforgettable times.

Once class time is over the campers have juice break with some refreshing lemonade or fruit punch and head off to their favorite sport. We offer a variety of sports that the children can try such as basketball, Frisbie, badminton, kick ball and more. This is another popular part of the day where campers have a lot of fun and can release a bunch of energy. Another option during sports is the use of our wonderful Buttercup Memorial Library.

After sports the campers come together again for Special Event. Each day we have a different speaker or performer visit camp and talk to the kids. Some of our favorites this year have been meeting exotic and wild animals, a juggler, and Falmouth's Karate school.

At twelve o' clock the day gets pretty busy. Half-day campers are either leaving for the day or are just arriving. All the campers who are staying at camp for the afternoon bring a bagged lunch and have about a half an hour to eat, relax and prepare themselves for a few more hours of fun.

Following lunch and free time, which is similar to school recess, round two of classes begins. The campers are offered the same choices for class as they were in the morning so they have a chance to try something new in the afternoon. Once the afternoon class is over the campers have another juice and sports break.

Finally it is hobbytime. During this time the campers are faced with yet another huge decision. What to take for a hobby? Perhaps dog obedience, new games, pottery, animal first aid, juggling, arts and crafts, fun with science, dance, board games, computers, fabric painting, copper tooling, puppetry or team sports.

Now that the counselors have done a great job wearing the campers out as well as themselves, the campers gather once again around the flag pole and eagerly await to be chosen to count off the song "Day Is Done" and lower the flag. Once the flag has been lowered the children collect the projects they have made and head home.

For someone who has been a camper for so many years and then worked here for another five, many would think this schedule would become a bit monotonous, but it truly has not. With each day there is always something new and exciting which makes camp so unique. It is incredible to see the growth that each camper makes each day and each year. They become more aware of what animals need to be happy and healthy. It is also a maturing experience because campers gain confidence and build character through sports and the other various activities that we provide.

Alissa Anderson has worked at the camp for the past five seasons as a junior counselor, senior counselor and camp cook. She also has attended for many a year as a camper.

PETSHOW 95

The first lap! Youngsters help their pets cool off before competing in the League's annual pet show, held Saturday, July 22, in North Falmouth.

"Top cat" at the show was "Bootie," an orange tiger owned by Molly McDougall, 12.

"This way to the ring!"

Here comes the parade of pets! Over sixty animals competed for the Best of Show title, which went to a white rabbit named "Pussywillow," pictured on the back cover.

Doug Vansickle, 12, sports a red ribbon after his golden hamster "Dakota" won second prize in the miscellaneous pet category.

Pooch receives some last-minute words of encouragement from sisters Keri-anne and Kristen Liska.

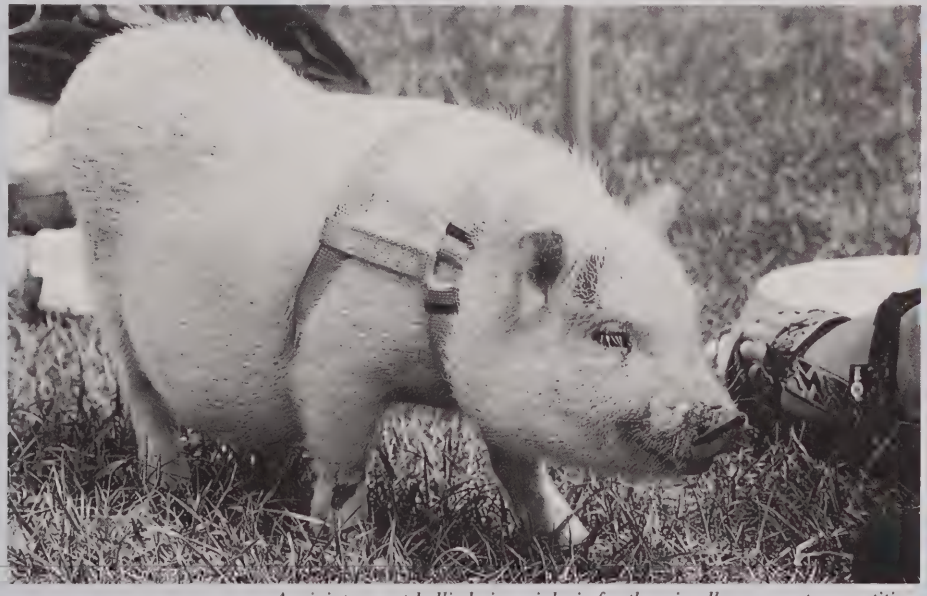
Kristen Kogut, 10, hugs "Snowfee," who won second prize in the cat contest.

It was a blue ribbon day for Matt Geary, 9 ½, and his golden retriever "Daisy," who won first prize in the puppy division.

First prize in dog obedience went to "Minnie," who belongs to proud owner Stephanie Moriarty, 10.

"Mikey" gets a hug from owner Matthew Deitch, 8, after winning second prize in the boy dog division.

First prize in the boy dog round went to an albino boxer named "Zack," owned by James Cervis, 10.



A miniature pot-bellied pig weighs in for the miscellaneous pet competition.

A New Home for Mr. Boggs

A black bear that was being kept illegally at a residence in Mt. Washington, MA, was officially placed in his foster home at the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, Monday, September 11.

Participating in "Mr. Boggs'" adoption ceremony were representatives of the agencies involved in the bear's rescue, including the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Massachusetts Environmental Police and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bear was taken into custody in a joint effort after it was found confined in a large chain link dog cage behind a house in Berkshire County that was filled with illegally obtained wildlife trophies.

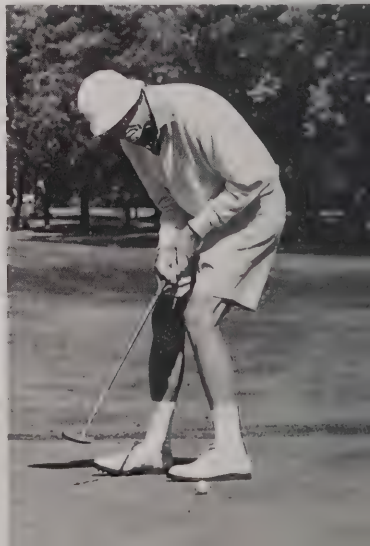
The Stone Zoo has provided a safe, comfortable home for the bear, which is fast becoming a popular attraction with visitors, but the zoo exhibit plan had not included development of a black bear exhibit and suitable habitat, since black bears are already well represented in zoos. As a "surprise" guest, Mr. Boggs does present economic problems for the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation, the non-profit company which manages the zoo. Anyone who would like to assist the zoo in caring for Mr. Boggs and upgrading his current exhibit area should contact the Commonwealth Zoological Corporation at (617) 442-2002.

"Putting for Pets"

Dazzling blue skies, beautifully groomed greens and 63 golfers with hearts of gold added up to a banner day for the League, Tuesday, September 19, as the first annual "Putting for Pets" open golf tournament was held at the Wayland Country Club.

Players teed off, in pairs and foursomes, starting at 8 a.m. and by the time the last teams returned to the clubhouse for lunch and the 3 p.m. award presentations, over $8,400 had been raised for the purchase of rescue equipment to aid animals in distress, and the establishment of a fund to care for abused animals in temporary custody of the League's law enforcement department.

The winning team for the day, with a score of 64 (par for the course is 71) was David Bavosi of Milford and Allan McLaughlin of Hopedale. Two teams tied for second place, with scores of 65: Jeff Kaye and Harry Eisenberg, both of Wayland, and Barry and Rosario Lattuca of Maynard. The prize for the longest drive went to Deb Getrost of Wayland, and prizes were also awarded for "closest to the pin" tee shots on holes #4, 6, 8 and 14, and for winners of the putting contest.



Edward J. Powers, tournament organizer and director of humane education, expressed the League's deep appreciation to the players, sponsors, donors and all of those who worked so hard to make the event a success. He also had a special acknowledgement for the following donors of gifts presented as prizes: Boston Bruins, Boston Links Golf Shop, Boston Red Sox, Mike Eruzione of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey team, The Ground Round, Hampshire House and the Wayland Country Club.

TOP TOURNAMENT TEAMS — Below, partners David Bavosi of Milford and Allan McLaughlin of Hopedale (center) are congratulated by tournament organizer Ed Powers (left) and League president Arthur Slade (right) after a first-place finish with a score of 64. Above, membership director Laura MacFeeley and Ed Powers check scorecards back at the clubhouse.

COURSE CANDIDS — From left to right: Cathy Petrie of Charlestown; Hewitt Morgan of Ipswich; foursome Kevin and Brian Brady of Needham and Chris and Peter Latosik of Milford; partners Anne Blumberg and Chanel Finzen of Maynard; and Tony Purpura and Mike Bettencourt of Bridgewater.

SPONSORS

The Animal Rescue League of Boston gratefully acknowledges the following 1995 first annual "Putting for Pets" Open Golf Tournament sponsors:

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NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

GOOD TIMES AND TRIBUTES AT RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Friends and fellow workers gathered together in the League's auditorium August 31 to give a warm send-off to Virginia DeCourcey who retired after 27 years of service to the League. A resident of the South End, she began work as a clerk-typist at the League on January 8, 1968, and worked in a variety of positions over the years, including disseminating humane education information to the public, and greeting visitors to the League as relief receptionist and switchboard operator.

League president Arthur G. Slade presented her with an engrossed Certificate of Appreciation, congratulating her and expressing thanks for "27 years of distinguished service to the League. During your tenure, you brought humor and warmth to every endeavor, and through your dedicated efforts helped educate countless individuals in the welfare of all animals," the citation reads.

YOUNGSTERS' GOOD DEED MERITS LEAGUE REWARD

Two children in Lynn, cousins Douangpanya Vivaron, 12, and Oudavone Chanhdymany, 13, shared a $250 reward offered by the League for the capture and safe return of a missing Capuchin monkey named "Buttons." Specially trained to assist his owner Jim McCarthy, who is partially paralyzed, the monkey escaped from his owner's apartment through an air-conditioning vent and was the object of a two-day citywide hunt. The children, who do not speak English, grabbed Buttons by his leash when they spotted him on the street, and summoned the proper authorities.

WSPA TEAM AIDS ANIMAL WAR VICTIMS

A disaster relief team from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) launched an animal assistance program this summer in Afghanistan, where years of civil war have left the country in ruins and the animal population in grave condition.

Led by John Walsh, international projects director, the team treated many animals in the city of Kabul, and is setting up supply lines of emergency veterinary drugs and essential vitamin and mineral supplements. They found approximately 30% of the livestock, camels, sheep, goats and cattle suffering from injuries or illnesses that could be treated with the proper supplies.

At the Kabul Zoo, the team found only twelve animals remaining and the zoo almost totally destroyed after six months of heavy fighting. One lion was blind and suffering from shrapnel wounds caused by a grenade that was thrown deliberately into its cage.

A WSPA survey revealed that most animal owners had lost up to a third of their livestock in the war, while some animals had been killed by mines after the fighting had moved on.

ADOPT- A-DOG MONTH

The Animal Rescue League will be joining humane societies across the country in observing October as Adopt-a-Dog Month, an annual effort to call attention to the plight of homeless dogs in need of shelter, love and human companionship. If you have room in your heart and home for a loyal and loving canine friend, visit your nearest League animal adoption shelter, in Boston, Brewster, Dedham or Salem, this month.

Rx FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The American Humane Association has asked concerned citizens to help protect endangered species and the environment by writing to their representatives and senators, asking them to support a stronger Endangered Species Act, not a diminished one; and by joining the nationwide "Medicine Bottle" campaign, created by the Endangered Species Coalition to underscore the importance of plant products and other wild sources to human health and medical care, by having people send their empty medicine bottles to the President and members of Congress.

Many important pharmaceuticals, including promising cancer drugs, are based on chemicals from plants and natural resources that would be threatened by any weakening of environmental protections. Many of the bills now in Congress propose moratoriums on listing endangered species and designating critical habitats, while still others address private property rights in a way that could undermine the Endangered Species Act's effectiveness. While the "medicine bottle" campaign focuses on plants and their benefits to humans, "any attempt to preserve or strengthen the ESA will benefit the animals we've worked so hard to protect," the AHA points out. "By saving the Pacific Yew, we can also save the Pacific Northwest Spotted Owl."

To participate in this campaign, contact the AHA's legislative office at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 543-7780. They can send you stickers to place on your empty medicine bottles with preprinted messages asking your legislators to vote to strengthen the Endangered Species Act.

STAFF MEMBERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

Two members of the League's veterinary clinic staff were recently awarded certification by the National Veterinary Technician Association. Congratulations to Lesley Dobalian and Sandra Dustin who passed the national certification examination with high marks in mid-June.

THESE LITTLE PIGGIES WENT HOME!

League law enforcement coordinator Alan Borgal pins down a 450-lb. pig that led police, League agents, game wardens and local farmers in Easton on a several-day chase in June. Also in the photos are Chris Curvin, who owns a pig farm in Easton, and Easton Police Officer Mike Fox. The sow — along with her three piglets — had been on the loose for 10 weeks, rooting up bulbs and plants in suburban yards as they hunted for food. After capturing the family with the aid of a net gun, League agents were able to place mother and piglets in a home with a local farmer.

NEW ORGANIZATION TO STUDY RITUAL CRIME

Thomas H. White, director of criminal investigation and legislative services at the League, has been elected president of the Northeast Ritual Crime Intelligence Association, an organization formed this past year to bring together law enforcement officials and others concerned with ritual crime activity. The group's objective is to accumulate, evaluate and disseminate intelligence on ritual crime and abuse to law enforcement personnel and other support agencies. The group plans to hold periodic seminars to update and train officers throughout the Northeast on the investigation of ritual crime and behavior.

"We are concerned specifically with practices which infringe significantly on the rights of others, and with practices that are illegal and/or cause harm to others, be they human or animal," White explained in the group's quarterly newsletter.

Understanding Animal Behavior

All animals, including ourselves, act or react in certain ways in response to our needs and environment. This in large is the foundation for animal *behavior.* Animals have basic needs for survival such as food, water, shelter, safety, protection and an area in which to live. Various animals respond differently to their environment and meet their needs in different ways. This is what makes behavior so interesting, but at times difficult to understand. We need only to look at our own pets to begin to understand how they communicate to each other and us, as well as their own "survival plan." Animals' most basic behaviors are *instincts.* Some examples of instincts would be that of eating, drinking, resting, migrating, parenting (or lack of) and protecting (survival). Other behaviors are learned through experiences or examples. When something uncomfortable or painful happens to an animal, they learn avoidance (like when a cat scratches a dog on the nose).

Let's look at various behaviors and how and in what situations they are used. Keep in mind that although not all behaviors are acceptable to us in our society, they are often very normal behaviors for that type of animal.

All animals use *cues* to communicate their feelings or intentions in various situations. This and other behaviors are based on *stimulus/response* and in some cases are instinctual. One such behavior is that of "fight or flight." When faced with a threat of harm to themselves or family and no other alternative available, an animal will either attempt to escape or fight. The means by which animals communicate are quite numerous. The most common is that of *vocalizations.* Just as we talk to one another, animals converse similarly. Dogs bark, whine, howl, growl, and yelp while cats will cry, purr, chirl, hiss, growl and scream in order to get across how they are feeling at that moment. Another more subtle (less obvious) way is that of body *postures.* A lot can be learned about how an animal is feeling by watching what various parts of their body are doing. When animals are content, alert, fearful, playful, threatening or being threatened, they will show how they feel by how they hold their bodies and tails.

Animals most often use vocalizations and postures together in response to their environment. When our pets are in their own territory, they're more likely to use *offensive* behaviors (moving forward and checking out intruder). Marking area (urinating, defecating, rubbing, clawing and kicking up soil) is used by animals in their own territories but also in strange surroundings to give out information about their personality and presence there to others that either enter or live in that area. *Defensive* behaviors are used in response to perceived or actual threats from another animal (fight, flight or freeze). *Aggression* is quite often viewed as an offensive act, but in actuality can and is used just as often in a defensive action. Aggression can be used to improve one's status in a group, expand one's territories or compete for mates (eliminated in our pets by conscientious neutering). In turn, it is also used to defend one's self, young, territory, food and/or possessions. Quite often when an animal is threatening or being threatened, you'll see the hackles on neck, shoulder and rear raised. This is a cue (sign) that unless the situation which is arousing it isn't remedied, attack may be highly likely.

Lastly, it should be understood that not all meetings between animals end in fighting or running away. Animals communicate and live together in tight or loose families in many species. They get along and coexist through the formation of a *hierarchy.* This system works because an individual in the group is the leader

with an orderly descent in rank to the lowest-status individual (i.e., "pecking order" in chickens). All live in harmony except when an individual attempts to improve its status in the group which meets resistance. However, these encounters are usually brief, quick and seldom end in severe injury or death to a member. Keep in mind, survival counts on knowing when to communicate *submission* which ends physical harm.

It is these instinctual and learned actions and reactions which are animal behavior. Now watch your own or other people's pets and try to figure out what they're telling each other and us . . . can you?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Behavior — Conduct; manner of acting
Instinct — Natural impulse; the knowledge and skill animals have *without* experience
Cues — Hint; to suggest indirectly
Stimulus/Response — An impulse or influence which triggers an answer or action
Vocalization — A sound uttered or emitted by mouth or vocal organs
Postures — Position of parts (in this case, body parts)
Offensive — Acting in a way to approach; moving forward; challenge
Defensive — Acting in a way to avoid danger; protecting; apology
Aggressive — An act of hostility; attack; to take steps against
Hierarchy — To have authority in matters of importance
Submission — Act of giving in; humble behavior; surrender

WORD SEARCH

G U C B E H A V I O R J T G F J
I D B K D P B Y H N S G C K H E
R N S U W L N X T U S B N S N H
D F H J F R O F F E N S I V E R
W E R J T H R E A T L H T O R H
R T F Y J H M F D H N O S C I J
Q E I E G H A M F G O E N A R G
U D G O N Y L Y K J I H I L F R
A F H H S S E R U T S O P I Y M
G A T L H R I L K F S F Y Z H K
G R O W L A O V G N I K R A M I
R M R J T E C G E J M O I T C H
E R F U K D B K Y T B S G I U I
S S L G N I F W L T U N J O E K
S T I M U L U S R E S P O N S E
I U G J G D E I L D S T E B T U
O F H D G E F Q C J E L N R E M
N I T W O I T L A Q S C O U E T

FIGHT OR FLIGHT
STIMULUS/RESPONSE
AGGRESSION
VOCALIZATION
DEFENSIVE
GROWL
THREAT
MARKING
SUBMISSION
ABNORMAL
OFFENSIVE
POSTURE
CUES
HACKLES
INSTINCT
BEHAVIOR

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1 "Charlie" was the beloved pet of Joseph Powers, who made a generous gift to the League in memory of the Siamese cat who was his faithful companion for 22 years on Beacon Hill in Boston. A few months after Charlie's death in March, his owner moved to Everett. "Even though he wasn't there to move with me, I knew I was bringing Charlie with me in my heart," Joe Powers says.

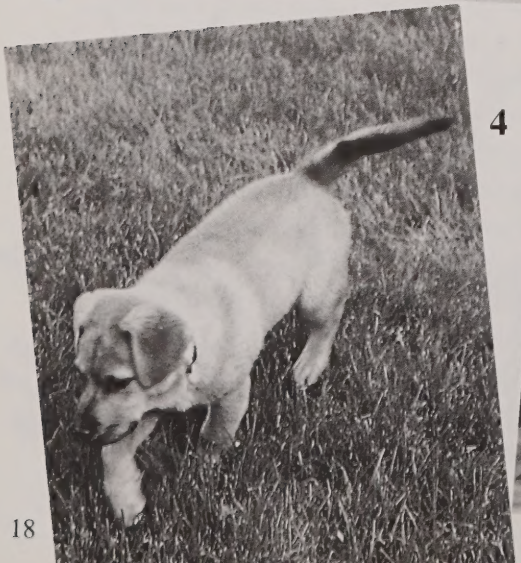
2 "Heidi," a terrier/beagle mix adopted two years ago, is caught napping after a hard day of chasing rabbits, mice and bumblebees. Heidi lives with proud owner Eve Bickham of Swansea, where she enjoys running around her one-acre yard.

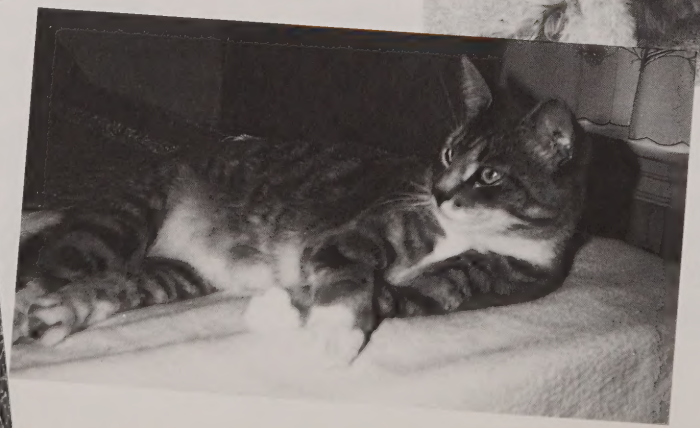
3 It's bath time for "Belle" and "Rudy," adopted this summer at the age of 11 weeks by Kathleen Wilson of Lexington. "Belle, Rudy, and I are best of friends after only three weeks," she writes. "The way they play together, I feel like I've adopted a herd of ponies instead of two kittens!"

4 "He and I are buddies," writes Elizabeth Coughlin of Brookline who adopted her puppy "Chatham" from the League's Boston shelter this past spring. "He is very happy and spoiled! We go to the park for two hours in the morning, then quickly at lunch time, and then again at night. He has tons of friends in the park!"

5 Martha Verry of Hull shares this photo of her cat "Missy." "She has brought me ten years of happiness, and I love her very much," Missy's owner writes.

6 "Don't let my frown fool you — I really love my new home," according to a note from "Princess," adopted this summer by Laura Naves of Somerville. The poodle's owner adds: "I never have to look for her — I just turn around, and she's always right behind me!"





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(Note: Please check to be sure your old address label is affixed to the back of this form.)

New Address 1 (please print)

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Dates in Effect:

_____ (month/day) to _____ (month/day)

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Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates in Effect:

_____ (month/day) to _____ (month/day)

Mail to: Membership Dept., Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

BEST OF SHOW — Pet show judge and past president of the League Carlton E. Buttrick awards the Best of Show trophy to Lydia, 11, and Luke Sharpe, 8, of Mashpee, whose white Jersey rabbit "Pussywillow" won top honors at the League's annual pet show (see other photos on p. 10–11).

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P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED